



Lamoine Board of Selectmen

606 Douglas Hwy
Lamoine, ME 04605
(207) 667-2242
town@lamoine-me.gov

Minutes – December 14, 2015

Chair Gary McFarland called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Present were: Selectmen Bernie Johnson, Nathan Mason, Gary McFarland, S. Josephine Cooper, Heather Fowler; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon and plowing contractor Richard McMullen.

Agenda Review – No changes to the printed agenda were proposed.

Minutes, December 3, 2015 – Heather moved to approve the minutes as presented. Bernie 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0 (Mason abstained)**

Expenditure Warrant 14 – Selectmen signed the warrant in the amount of \$118,149.30. Stu noted the fire fighter expense reimbursements were contained. Nathan asked how the amounts were determined. Stu said the fire chief bases it on rank which pretty much determines the participation level of the member.

Cash & Budget Reports – There were no questions regarding the reports.

2013/14 Liens/Foreclosure Status – Stu reported there are 11 who have yet to pay. He said the deadline to receive payment is January 9, 2016.

Snow Plowing Contract – Stu said Richard McMullen had asked him earlier in the day what the board was hoping, and he told him to bring a figure. Mr. McMullen said in the past five years, the number of events has seemed to rise. He said he is proposing an additional \$1,500 per month, which is approximately a 10% increase from the current year.

Jo asked if that included a salt priority program. Mr. McMullen said it is to continue what is being done now. He said the salt program probably would not work too well on the small, less traveled roads. He said effectiveness using straight salt depends on the type of storm, too. He said he is not pre-treating the roads with salt brine. Jo asked how much more it would cost to use a salt priority program. Mr. McMullen said he did not come up with a number for that. Jo said the Board and Mr. McMullen had talked about salt priority being a preferred program. A brief discussion followed about using salt vs. salt and sand, and what the state highway contract uses.

Bernie asked what has caused a 10-percent increase, noting that fuel prices have dropped significantly. Mr. McMullen said liability insurance and workers comp rates have gone up, as has the cost to repair equipment. He said \$1,500 doesn't even buy a load of salt any more. He said he has not had an easy winter in the past five years.

Stu asked if Mr. McMullen would be willing to increase the base number of storms before the escalator clause takes effect in return for the higher base amount. Mr. McMullen said that seems reasonable. He said there ought to be some accommodation in the contract for when his big bucket loader is used to remove snow banks. A brief discussion followed. Selectmen instructed Stu to draw up a contract for a two year

extension. Stu said he would work with Mr. McMullen to come up with something along the lines of the discussion.

Marlboro Beach Road Trees – Stu reported Mr. McMullen had requested that trees along a short section of Marlboro Beach Road be trimmed back, as they encroach onto the road and damage passing vehicles. Heather moved to award the project to Berry Cove Gardens for \$1,900. Nathan 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Consent Agreement – Stu said he would change a clause in the proposed consent agreement to remove repairs to the Bobolink Lane sign as part of the requirement. He said that sign was nowhere near the area of violation. He said the sign proposes a net of a \$500.00 fine. Heather asked if the town has heard from Mr. Jordan on this matter. Stu said no, the idea was for the Selectmen to review it before it went any further. He said he and the Code Enforcement Officer felt that the proposed fine was adequate, and any amount higher might draw an objection and that could mean lawyers get involved, dragging out any possible conclusion. Jo said she would prefer a higher fine, but could live with the proposed amount. After a brief discussion about the contents of the draft agreement, Bernie moved to propose the consent agreement to the parties involved. Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0 (Mason abstained).**

Cell Phone Tower Lease Extension – Stu explained that American Tower Corporation which owns the cell tower on the town land has proposed a 30-year extension with an increase in rent and a \$20,000 signing bonus. He said he had received a packet of paperwork from ATC earlier in the day but has not had a chance to review it. He said the proposal seems to make sense, but it should have town meeting approval. Selectmen had no objection to contacting ATC and explaining this will require voter approval prior to final signing. A brief discussion followed on what to do with the “signing bonus”.

Transfer Station Repairs – Stu reported the project is essentially done, and the bills have been submitted to Maine Municipal Association for the insurance claim. It was noted the town was able to purchase a replacement air conditioner for the office at the Re-Store for \$45.00.

Shellfishing Enforcement – Stu said there was a message from Richard Fennelly Jr. in the packet explaining what was going on. Bernie said Mr. Fennelly has done well on this matter, and the board should send him a thank-you.

Next Meetings – Gary read the planned meeting dates. The board will meet on January 14 and hear from the Municipal Review Committee, the 28th and honor volunteers who’ve “retired” from service, February 11 and 25. The annual town meeting is March 8 and 9, with regular Selectmen meetings on March 10 and 24.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:27 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Selectmen